Annotated Bibliography

“Janet Craven.” Personal interview. 2 April 2012.

Summary:

I had the chance to interview a school teacher from a local public school. While interviewing her I discovered there is such a big difference in the charter and public school atmosphere. I never noticed how different they are. She talked about how charter schools are run and the difference in funding. She also mentioned how there are certain aspects of a charter school that they don’t make public. Teachers in charter schools don’t have to have a teaching certificate to work there.

Rhetorical Analysis (Ethos):

I think that Janet Craven is a reliable and trustworthy source because she has been teaching for more than 20 years, and she has had the opportunity to teach in many different atmospheres. She is unbiased in her opinions toward both schools, she feels it is best for students to achiever their full potential and in order to do that they need to be motivated. Teachers can make or break students, however, students also need to try.

Thoughts on my research:

I really enjoyed conducting this interview. My nephew is in her class so it made it really easy and more comforting when I was talking to her. She was a really interesting person to talk to, her stories and information she gave really helped me understand the insight on a teachers day. I have a new respect for teachers now that I have done this interview as well as all my research.

Annotated Bibliography

Erickson, Ansley T. “The Rhetoric of Choice: Segregation, Desegregation, and Charter

Schools.” *Dissent* (2011): 41-46. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 28. Mar. 2012.

Summary:

Ansley T. Erickson, a professor of history at Columbia University researched the rhetoric of choice in segregation, desegregation and charter schools. She compares charter schools to desegregation, stating that charter schools are a type of segregation. School choice, “ has become a pseudonym for charter school reform, claim that changing how individual students end up at one school rather than another will contribute to significantly expanded access to quality education” (41). Decades ago many schools started forcing desegregation in classrooms and on busses, thus creating an outrage and a new form of a school for a higher class (42). Segregation matters in this situation because it creates a political vulnerability for charter schools as individual institutions and a reform strategy (45). Charter schools are a part of segregation in a new age states Erickson (46).

Rhetorical Analysis (Logos):

I believe that Erickson is slightly biased, her logos isn’t strong enough to stand on its own. Though there are many facts about segregation and desegregation from decades ago now in the 21st century things are different. If she had used some statistics or a survey of why people put their kids in a charter school now then possibly it could help back up her idea of charter schools being a type of segregation now.

Thoughts on my research:  
  
I think what Erickson says is very interesting. Before reading this article I would have never thought about a charter school being a form of segregation. While digging deeper and researching more I am hoping to discover if charter schools are a form of segregation and why people choose to put their kids in charter schools. Are charter schools really better than a public school? Is it more what school a person attends or their attitude toward their studies?

Summary:

Chris Higgins and Kathleen Knight Abowitz have set out to find what it really means to be a public school. Public schools shy away from teaching a way of life (368). What do “the public” mean, what it means for a school to be public. What demands does publicity place not only on access and on governance, but also on pedagogy and curriculum (369)?

Rhetoric Analysis (Ethos):

I believe Higgins and Abowitz to be trustworthy sources; they are both in the department of education and come from years of experience. One factor that might have made their research untrustworthy would be if they showed a bias toward one side over another. This research is devoted to explaining what they think public school means and what the general public is.

Thoughts on my research:

I really enjoyed reading this article it was very interesting. Before reading this I never really thought about what it meant to be a “public” school. What is the public? If you do read this though you have to keep an open mind about all the possibilities or you will find yourself getting angry or frustrated with the research in front of you.

Annotated Bibliography

Rix Kate. “Lessons From Charter Schools.” *Scholastic Instructor* (2012): 32-37

*Academic Search Premier*. Web. 28 Mar. 2012.

Summary:

Journalist Kate Rix explores the possibilities of charter schools and what they have to teach us. In most charter schools it is mandatory for the teacher to go to the students home and get to know them and their family before the school year starts (32-33). Charter schools have two advantages over traditional schools, autonomy and a mission; by having a mission it creates motivation for the students something to work toward (34). Getting to know their student’s teachers create a better bond with their class and it shows that they take their jobs seriously (35). All schools are required to use the same curricula, however, charter schools autonomy allows teachers to be more creative with the way they teach the curricula reports Rix (36).

Rhetorical Analysis (Logos):

I believe Rix is trustworthy because her logos is unbiased and backed up by facts. Although she could have used some statistics the fact that she interviewed teachers from charter schools and traditional schools gives the reader the insight into what both schools are really like. She also interviewed students and the difference in their responses was logical and not fabricated.

Thoughts on my research:

I really enjoyed reading this article, because it was very insightful and it was interesting to read. Rix really used her resources to right an intriguing article that draws people in and informs them of the differences in public school and charter school atmospheres. I didn’t know they had to teach the same curricula, but I wonder why teachers in traditional schools can’t teach it the way they want like a charter schoolteacher can.